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STATUS OF THE KISSINGER MISSION

ANNCR: VOA NEWS ANALYST RONALD J. DUNLAVEY DISCUSSES SECRETARY KISSINGER'S TRIP TO SOUTHERN AFRICA:

VOICE: SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MISSION TO SOUTHERN AFRICA HAS CREATED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF SUSPENSE. (OPT) CAN HE BRING OFF, AS HE HIMSELF PUT IT, WHAT SO MANY OTHERS HAVE TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO DO IN THE PAST? THE SUSPENSE IS INCREASED BY REALIZATION THAT, AS PRESIDENT KAUNDA OF ZAMBIA SAID TO MR. KISSINGER THURSDAY, " TIME IS RUNNING OUT" -- SOMETHING THAT THE SECRETARY HIMSELF HAS REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED IN RECENT MONTHS. IT IS FURTHER INCREASED BY THE VIOLENCE WHICH IS NOW EXPLODING IN THE CITIES AND TOWNSHIPS OF SOUTH AFRICA. (END OPT)

NOW, IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT THE SUSPENSE WILL BE RELIEVED, ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. THE CLIMAX OF THE KISSINGER MISSION HAS BEEN REACHED BY HIS ARRIVAL IN PRETORIA, WHERE HE IS MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER. THE PURPOSE OF THAT VISIT IS TO CONVEY TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS WHAT MR. KISSINGER HAS BEEN TOLD BY THE BLACK AFRICAN LEADERS WITH WHOM HE HAS CONFERRED, AND TO FIND OUT IN TURN WHAT MR. VORSTER IS WILLING TO DO ABOUT SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF NAMIBIA AND WHETHER HE IS WILLING TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE SMITH REGIME IN RHODESIA TO ACCEPT A SWITCH TO MAJORITY RULE. THERE IS EVEN SPECULATION THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER MAY MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER SMITH, WHO IS IN SOUTH AFRICA TO ATTEND A FOOTBALL MATCH.

IT IS NOT EASY TO FIND ANYONE WHO IS PARTICULARLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE TALKS IN PRETORIA. NEITHER

PRESIDENT NYERERE OF TANZANIA NOR PRESIDENT KAUNDA IS IN A PARTICULARLY CHEERFUL MOOD. MR. NYERERE'S REMARKS, FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER WEDNESDAY, WERE PARTICULARLY HARSH-- ALTHOUGH THERE'S SPECULATION THAT THIS SKEPTICAL ATTITUDE TOWARD THE KISSINGER-VORSTER TALKS IS A PUBLIC POSITION FOR POLITICAL REASONS RATHER THAN AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF WHAT WAS CONVEYED IN PRIVATE TO MR. KISSINGER. THERE'S NOT MUCH HOPE BEING EXPRESSED, EITHER, FOR A MEANINGFUL SHIFT IN THE RHODESIAN ATTITUDE. MR. SMITH'S PARTY, ON THURSDAY, PASSED A RESOLUTION ENDORSING HIM TO NEGOTIATE THE FUTURE OF RHODESIA--BUT THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT ANY RADICAL CHANGE WAS EXPECTED IN THE BASIC POSITION OF THE WHITE RULING MINORITY.

SECRETARY KISSINGER HIMSELF, HOWEVER, IS NOT PESSIMISTIC. HE BELIEVES THAT ALL PARTIES CONCERNED ARE WELL AWARE OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO MAKE THE NECESSARY CHANGES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA-- AN AWARENESS EXPRESSED THURSDAY IN PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S SOBER REMARK: "WE HAVE NO ROMANTIC VIEWS ABOUT ARMED STRUGGLE, NONE AT ALL." THERE IS SOME HOPE THAT A SENSE OF REALISM WILL ALSO PREVAIL AMONG THE WHITE LEADERSHIP OF SOUTHERN AFRICA; HAD MR. KISSINGER NOT BEEN CONVINCED OF THAT POSSIBILITY HE WOULD NOT HAVE UNDERTAKEN HIS MISSION IN THE FIRST PLACE. AS FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF FAILURE-- WHICH HE HAS CONCEDED RIGHT FROM THE START IS HIGH-- ONE MIGHT RECALL MR. KISSINGER'S REMARK BEFORE HE UNDERTOOK THE MISSION: " THE WORST THAT CAN HAPPEN, IF THIS EFFORT FAILS, IS WHAT WAS CERTAIN TO HAPPEN IF THE EFFORT IS NOT MADE."

END